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Full schedule and images available for download at:
<http://www.MondaviArts.org/pressroom>

For immediate release:

Celtic Music Superstars Leahy to Play Mondavi Center

January 4, 2008; Davis, California—The freewheeling family octet known as **Leahy**, one of Canada's most celebrated bands, will bring its upbeat blend of Celtic, folk, and pop to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis**. Led by **Donnell Leahy**, widely recognized as a world-class fiddler, the Leahy siblings combine a variety of styles including jigs, *czardas*, Cape Breton fiddling, and Celtic music with an engaging performance style that includes high-energy step dancing.

The event will begin at 8 pm on Wednesday, January 30, in the Mondavi Center's Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org. The concert is presented as a Mondavi Center **Global Beat** event.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program will also present Leahy as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** at the Mondavi Center on January 30 at 11 am. The School Matinee Series is made available for teachers and students, including homeschooled students. Performances in this series support the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Teachers, educators, and others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

Leahy, the family band from Lakefield, Ontario, currently features siblings Donnell, Erin, Angus, Maria, Siobeheann, Doug, Agnes, and Frank. The group is a continuation of the **Leahy Family Band**, in which the Leahy children performed with their parents during the 1970s. A genuine extension of Canada's rural musical traditions, the family played and sang together in the evenings after long days of working their farm, and once they began performing publicly, they quickly became a favorite at folk festivals and county fairs. A documentary on the group, *Leahy: Music Most of All*, won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Student Film in 1985.

That ensemble took a hiatus in the late 1980s, with the children continuing to play music together privately. During the following decade, Donnell and Erin began playing publicly again, with the others gradually joining in. The reincarnated band—now known simply as Leahy—quickly established an enthusiastic fan base, and in 1997, recorded an album that sold more than 200,000 copies in Canada and reached No. 4 on the *Billboard* world music chart in the United States.

This success led to honors for Best New Group and Best Instrumental group at the 1997 Juno Awards—Canada's equivalent to the Grammy Awards. The following year, a performance at the Juno Awards led to an international tour with superstar **Shania Twain**, a fellow Canadian, which brought Leahy to an even larger

audience. The group has now recorded three albums, *Leahy* (1997) and gold-selling *Lakefield* (2001), both released in the U.S. on the Narada label, and *In All Things* (2004) on EMI.

The group includes **Siobheann Leahy** (bass, piano, fiddle, vocals), **Donnell Leahy** (fiddle), **Maria Leahy** (guitar, piano, fiddle, vocals), **Agnes Leahy** (piano, fiddle, vocals), **Doug Leahy** (fiddle), **Erin Leahy** (keyboards, fiddle, vocals), **Angus Leahy** (fiddle, piano), and **Frank Leahy** (drums). In addition to their instrumental duties, all members of Leahy are dancers, and high-energy step dancing is an important part of their engaging live performances.

The group's genuine love of such a diverse range of music from a wide variety of regional traditions has helped to forge a unique sound that has been successful with audiences all over the world. "It is liberating to see that there are no boundaries," Donnell Leahy has stated. "Over the course of a year, we perform at jazz, bluegrass, country, and Celtic festivals. We play for classical audiences, we've played with heavy metal bands, and it works every time."

"It is always inspiring to hear musicians who are willing to cross over the boundaries that are sometimes thought to exist between musical genres," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "Leahy is an excellent example of a group that has been able to pull together a variety of traditional styles to form something new and vital that contemporary audiences find very appealing."

What: Leahy
When: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 • 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$44/\$39/\$34 Adults • \$22/\$19.50/\$17 Students & Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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